



June 13, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, Trade Subcommittee
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McDermott
Ranking Member, Trade Subcommittee
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Camp and Brady, and Ranking Members Levin and McDermott:

I am writing on behalf of Noble Biomaterials, Inc. to support H.R.4984 and request its inclusion in the 2012 Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) package. This legislation will reduce import duties on textile-based heart rate monitors that utilize high tech textile fibers we manufacture in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

When the heart sensing textile fibers that Noble Biomaterials manufactures are sewn into a garment, along with connectors designed to secure an electronic transmitter that transmits a person's heart rate from the heart-sensing fiber to a compatible monitor, they change the essential character and core function of the garments. What looks like a "normal" tank top is actually a heart rate monitor. Not only does the heart sensing fiber that we manufacture change the essential character and core function of the garments, it increases the relative cost of these items so that the only reason consumers will purchase these items is to use them as heart rate monitors.

While "traditional" chest strap heart rate monitors enter the U.S. duty free under Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) Chapter 90, heart sensing garments covered by this legislation are subject to a 32% duty rate under HTS Subheading 6109.90.10, thereby putting importers of these items at a competitive disadvantage while suppressing demand for Noble Biomaterials technology.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill process will allow us to temporarily suspend the duty on these items, thereby leveling the playing field for textile-based heart rate monitors while creating additional demand for the high tech fiber we manufacture in Scranton. We hope you will include this legislation in the 2012 MTB package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel M. Furey', written in a cursive style.

Joel M. Furey
President